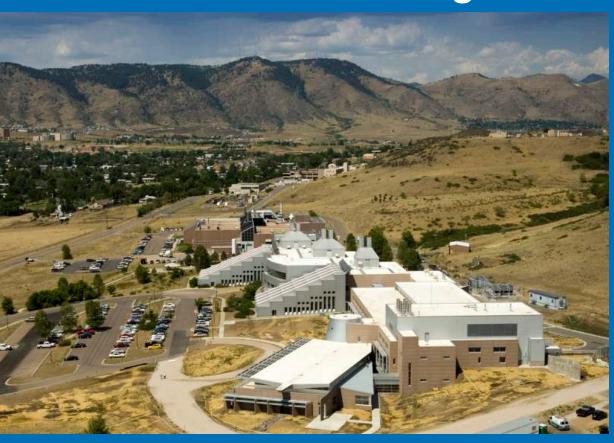


NREL's Renewable Energy Finance Tracking Initiative (REFTI)



Q2 2010 Summary

Michael Mendelsohn Senior Financial Analyst

November 10, 2010

Housekeeping

Webinar: Got audio?

Call-in number: 888-469-1051

participant access code: 6794941

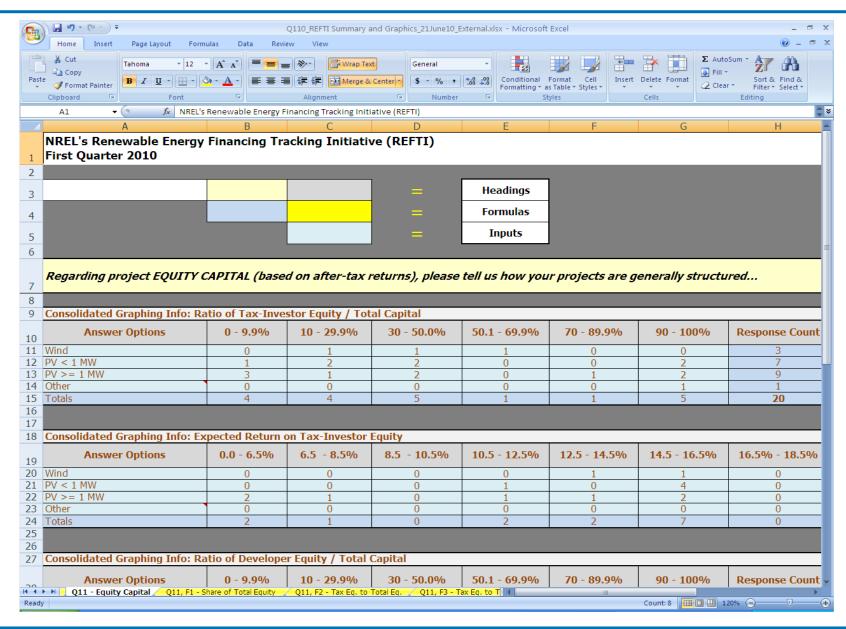
 Presentation, webinar recording, and original aggregated spreadsheet data will be made available at NREL's new RE Finance website:

http://financere.nrel.gov/

- Gain early access to future REFTI results!
 - Complete REFTI questionnaire
 - Provide email address when prompted (for internal-use only)



Aggregated REFTI Data Now Available!



Webinar Agenda

- Intro to REFTI Program
 - Background/Vision
- Q2 2010 Questionnaire Results
 - Will generally follow REFTI questionnaire progression
 - Trend across multiple quarters
 - Technology Breakout
- Interactive Polling
- Question & Answer
 - Submit via internet conference and we will respond at the end



REFTI Background/Vision

- Designed to obtain quality data from RE participants
- Provides valuable insight into RE financing terms and the application of government incentives
- Four Quarters of information are now available
- With continued participation, it will be possible to observe market trends and policy implications



Caveats

- This is a summary of data as reported by REFTI participants
- In general, data provided was not validated by NREL
- Potential concerns:
 - Duplicate data
 - Definition of "financial closure"
 - Small sample size

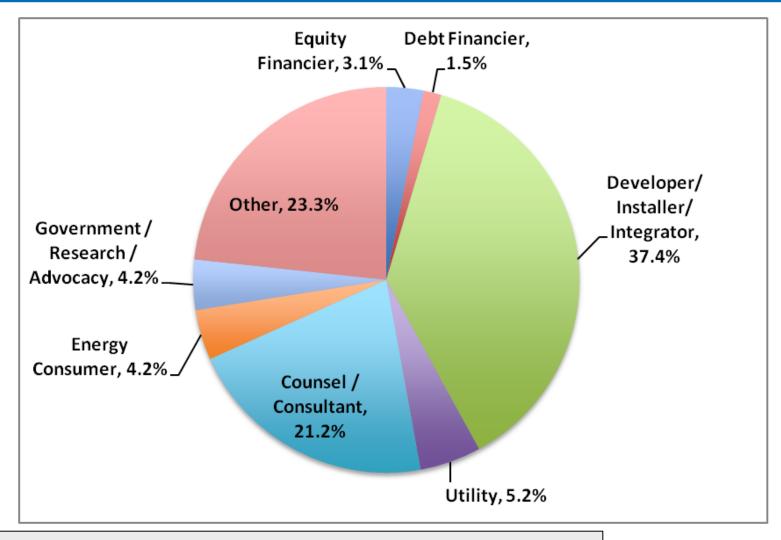


Table of Contents

- REFTI participants & their project portfolios & investments
- Behind the meter projects end-user & economic return
- Financial structure and form of incentive and depreciation taken
- REC and PPA contract terms
- Tax and Developer Equity ratios and exp. returns
- Term debt
- Installed and levelized costs



Participation: Q2'10 Firm Composition



188 people entered the questionnaire; 154 left contact info. Developers represented largest segment with 38%

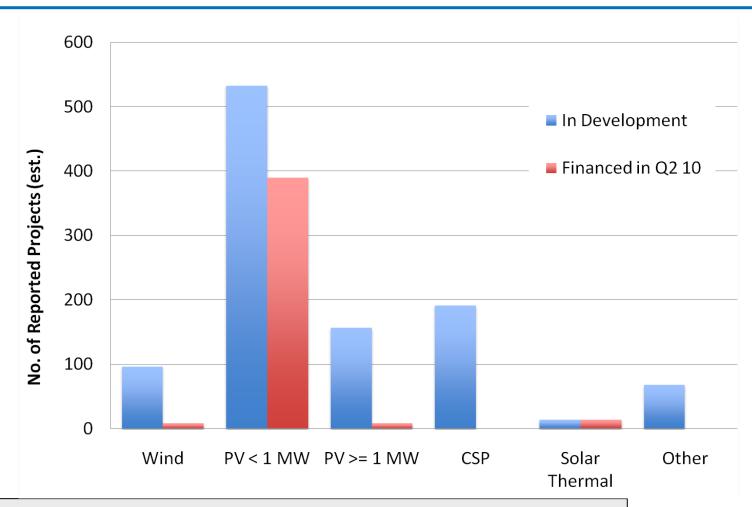


REFTI Questionnaire: Page 2, Q1 (Q3)

1. Please tell us about your projects IN DEVELOPMENT and those that CLOSED FINANCING in Q2 2010...

	No. of Projects in Development	Aggregate Capacity in Development (gross MW)	No. of Projects Financially Closed (Q1 10)	Aggregate Capacity Financially Closed (gross MW)	Form of Financial Closure
Wind	V	v	~	~	~
Solar - PV (< 1 MW)	~	~	~	~	*
Solar - PV (>= 1 MW)	٧	V	~	v	٧
Solar - CSP	~	Y	~	~	~
Solar Thermal (non-elec)	V	V	~	v	V
Geothermal	~	~	~	~	~
Biomass - Elec	~	~	~	~	~
Biomass - Non-elec	~	V	V	~	V
Hydro	~	~	V	~	~
Other Technologies	~	V	V	~	~
Comments					
					***NR

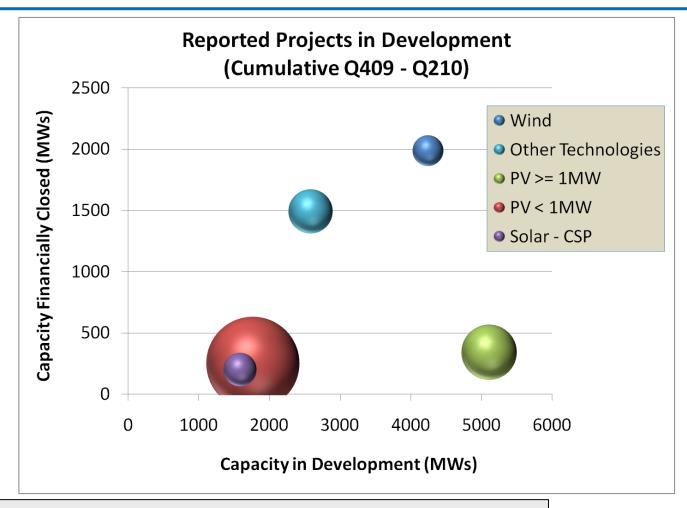
Number of RE Projects Reported



116 respondents reported approximately 1060 projects in development, with 420 projects having reached financial closure of some kind (up from 58 respondents and 912 in development)



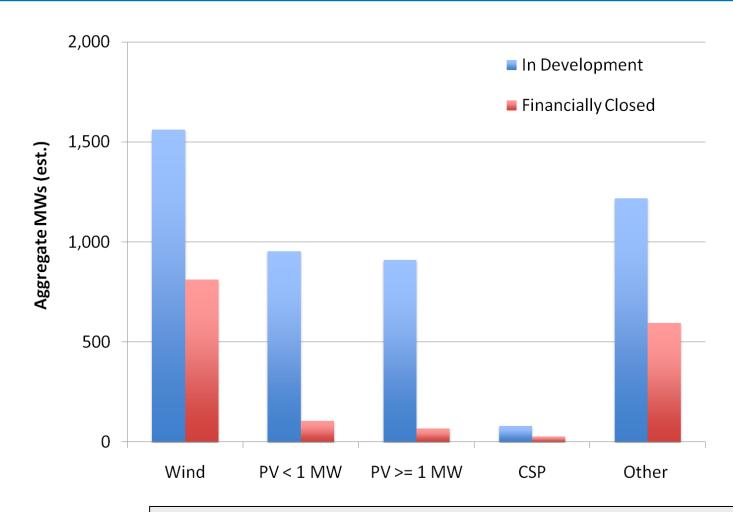
Number of RE Projects Reported



Over past three quarters, REFTI participants have reported thousands of MW in development and financially closed for each technology. Bubble size = # of projects reported



Capacity of Projects Reported (MWs)

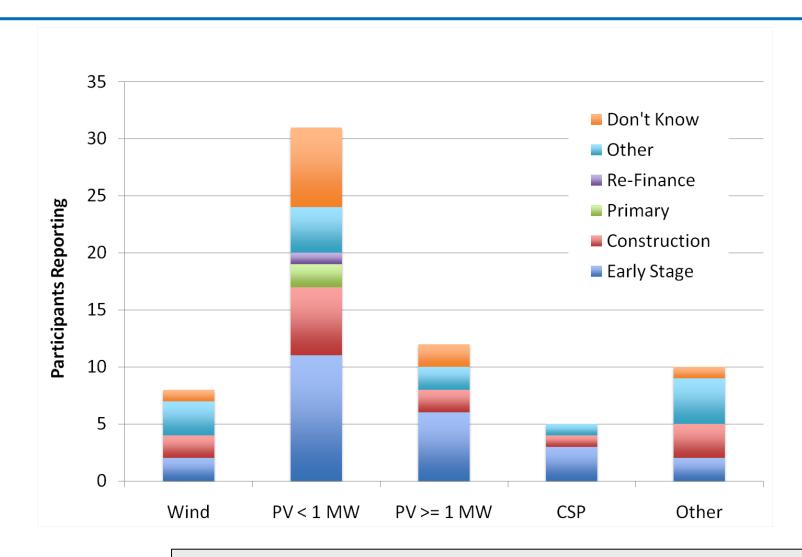




Roughly 4,720 MW in development by REFTI participants with 1,600 MW reaching financial closure of some kind.

** Values estimated based on mid-point of questionnaire bins

Form of Financial Closure





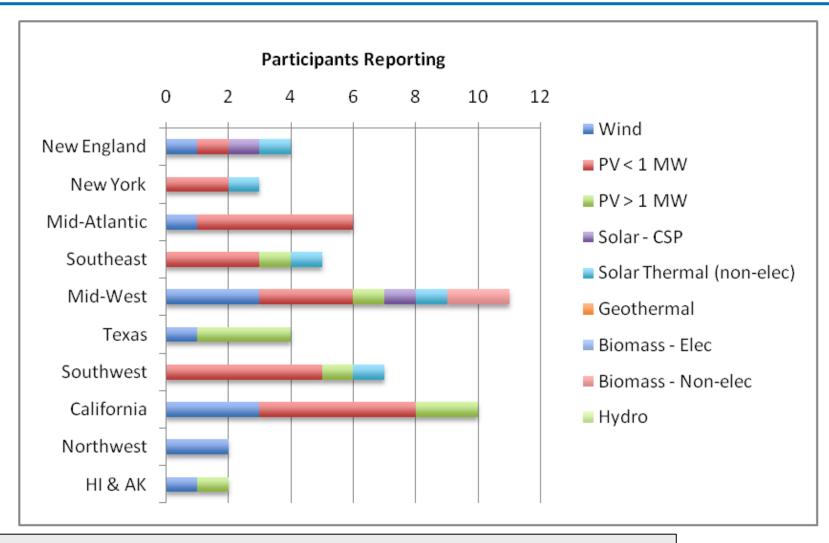
66 respondents indicated form of financial closure. A high number of early stage and construction financings reported.

REFTI Questionnaire: Page 2, Q2 (Q4)

2. For projects that closed in Q2 2010, please tell us the PRIMARY LOCATION, POWER PURCHASER, and the TOTAL and DIRECT INVESTMENT...

	Primary Region	Primary Power Purchaser (i.e., Power Sold To)	Total Cost of Combined Projects (\$ millions)	Your Total Direct Investment (\$ millions)
Wind	V	~	v	~
Solar - PV (< 1 MW)	¥	v	V	*
Solar - PV (>= 1 MW)	V	·	•	V
Solar - CSP	¥	Y	V	*
Solar Thermal (non- elec)	٧	V	V	٧
Geothermal	Y	v	v	*
Biomass - Elec	~	·	~	V
Biomass - Non-elec	¥	V	V	v
Hydro	~	·	V	Y
Other Technologies	¥	v	V	~
Comments				

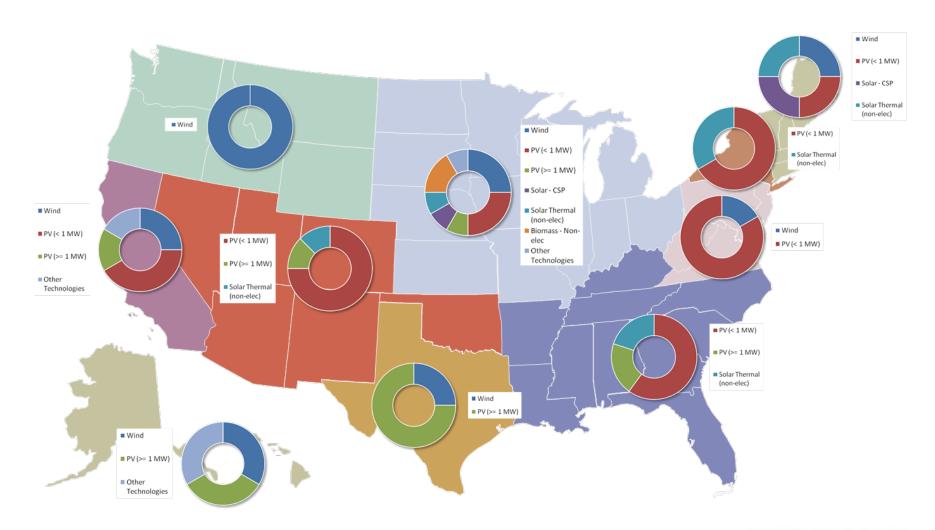
Financial Closures by Region



High number of REFTI participants reporting on projects in Mid-West and CA. All regions represented (59 total participants).

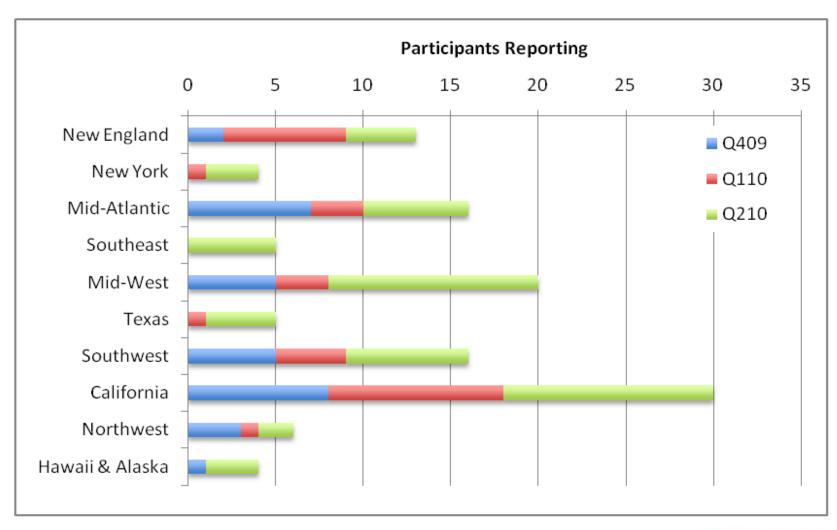


Financial Closures by Region





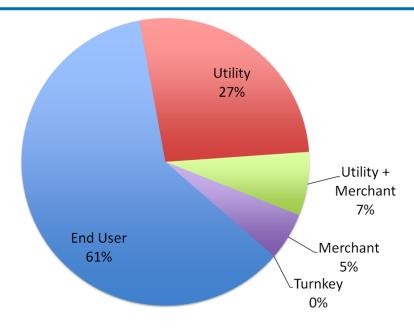
Financial Closures by Region – Trend

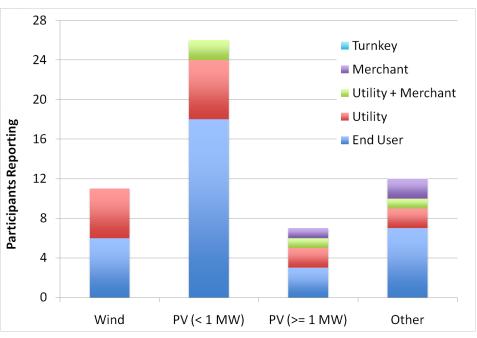


CA and mid-west & mid-Atlantic well represented



Primary Power Purchaser

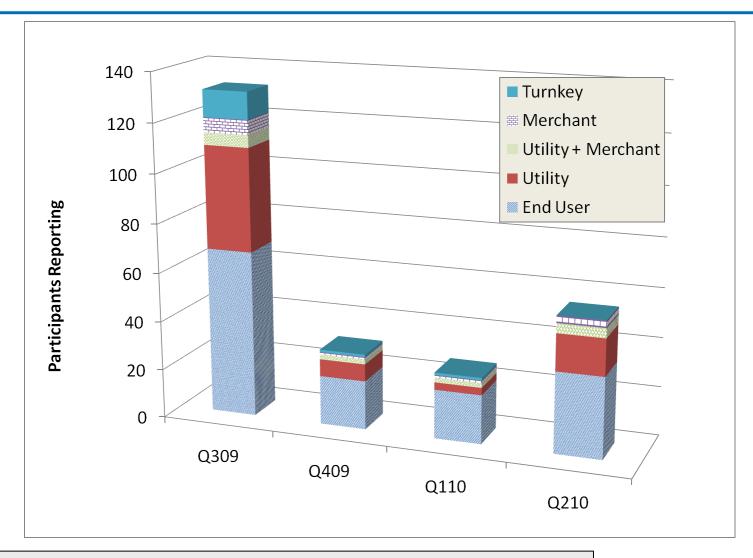




Most projects reported signed PPA with customer host. Some merchant sales (inc. remainder after utility sales) reported



Primary Power Purchaser - Trend

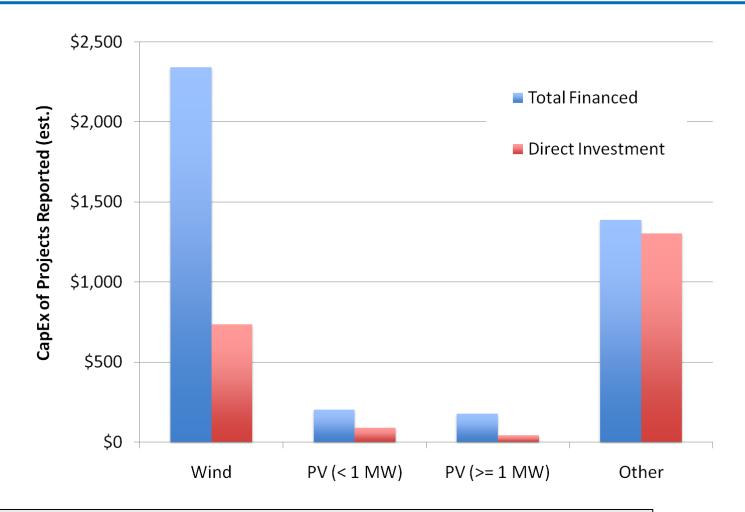


Most projects reported signed PPA with customer host. Some merchant sales (inc. remainder after utility sales) reported



19

Capital Expenditure Reported (\$MM)



REFTI participants reported \$4.1B in projects in development, \$1.25B of direct finance coming from REFTI participants.

** Values estimated based on mid-point of questionnaire bins



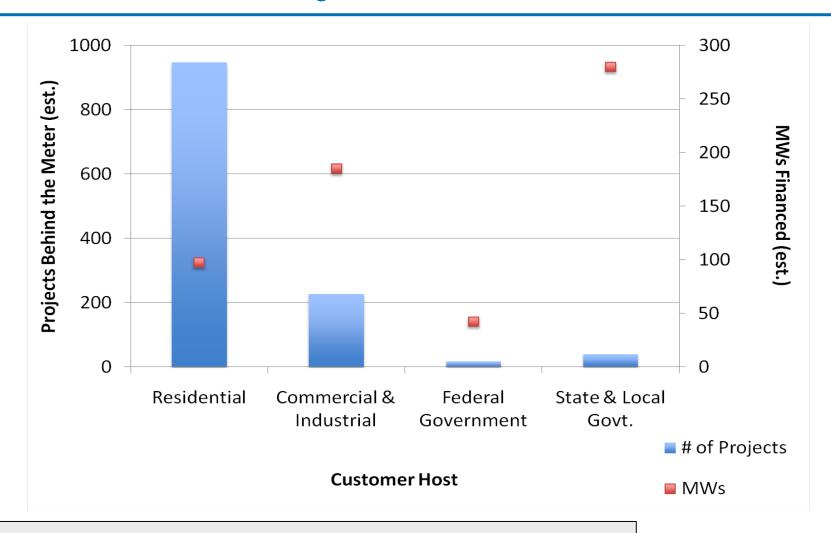
REFTI Questionnaire: Page 2, Q3 (Q5)

3. For your projects that are ON-SITE and BEHIND-THE-METER, please tell us about the customer host...

	Number of Deals	Nameplate Capacity (aggregate MW)	Typical Customer Financing Structure	Avg. Customer Payback (yrs)	Avg. Customer Discount Rate (%)
Residential	Y	Y	٧	~	Y
Commercial & Industrial	v	v	٧	v	٧
Federal Government	v	~	٧	~	Y
State & Local Govt.	Y	V	٧	~	v
Comments					
					<u>^</u>



No. & MWs of Projects with Customer Host

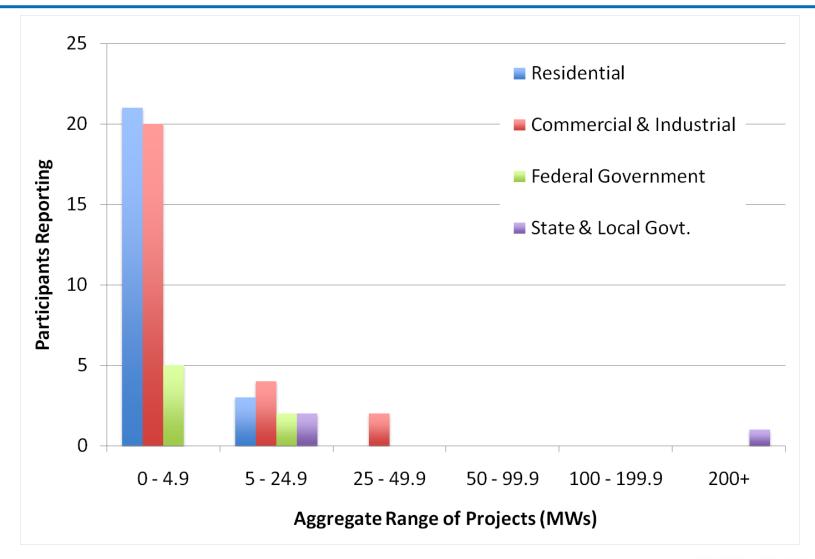


Roughly 1200 projects, representing 605 MW, reported with customer host. Very high MW project reported for state & local govt.

** Values estimated based on mid-point of questionnaire

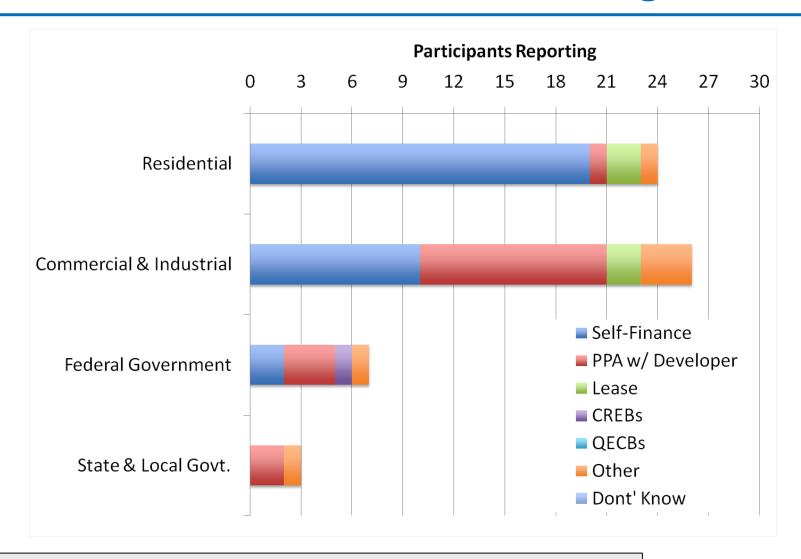


No. & MWs of Projects with Customer Host





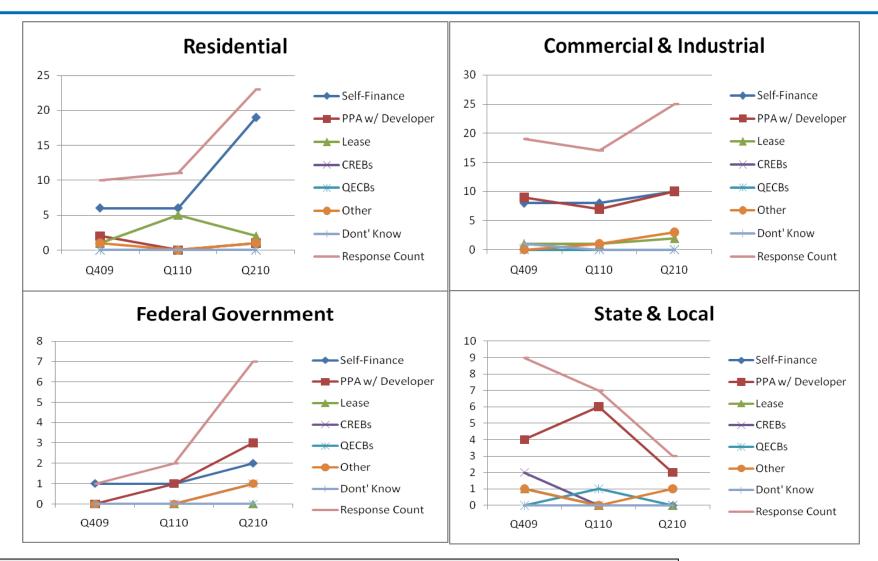
Form of Customer Host Financing



Most residential deals are self-financed. Most C&I deals are financed via PPA with developers



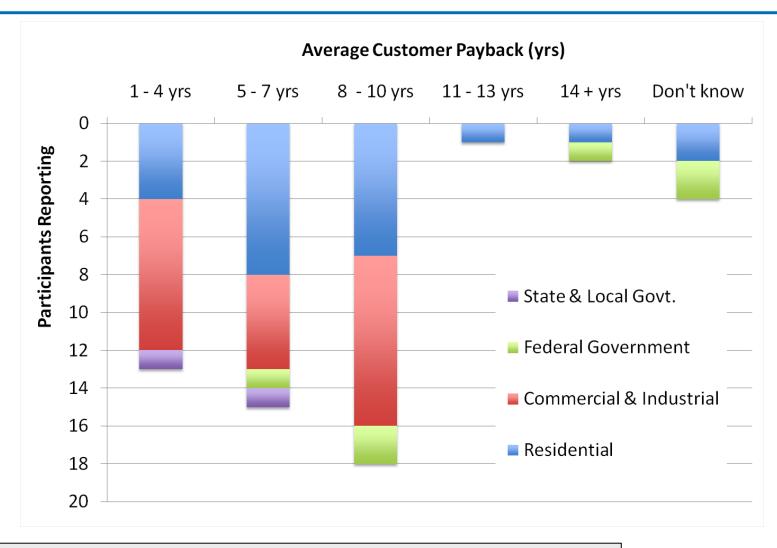
Customer Host Financing – Trend Analysis



Trends by customer sector



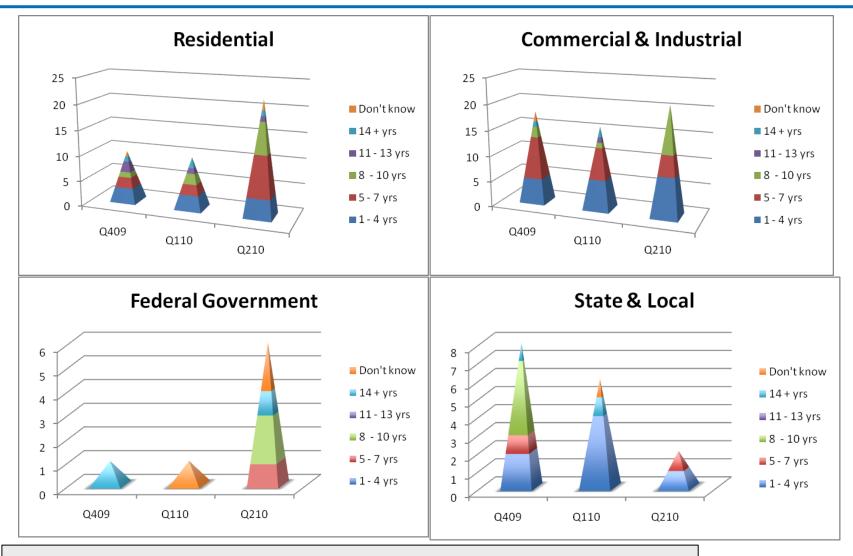
Customer Host Payback (Yrs)



Most projects have 10 year or lower payback. Very wide range on residential deals (likely tied to utility power price and REC purchase)



Customer Host Payback – Trend Analysis



Q2 10 first opportunity to look at federal govt. projects - most have payback of 10 years or less.



Customer Host Discount Rate



Customer discount rates are estimated to be fairly low (most under 9%). Fairly high "don't knows" as expected



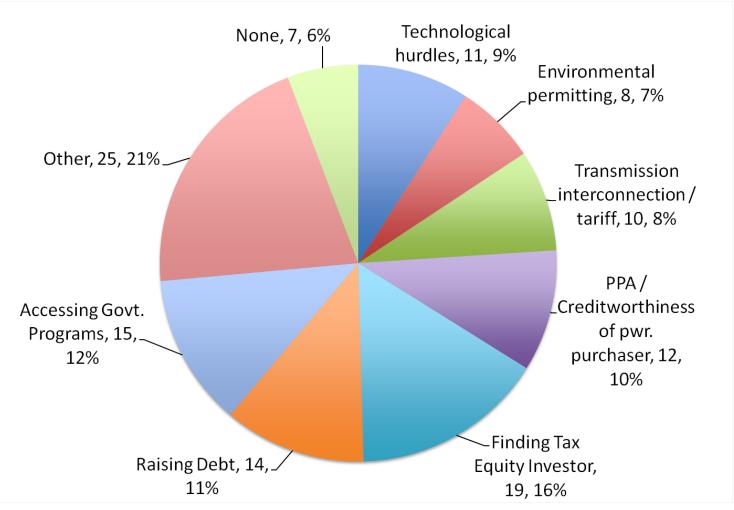
REFTI Questionnaire: Page 2, Q4 (Q6)

4. What was the LARGEST BARRIER to RE project development and how did it impact your projects

	Barrier	Impact
Wind	<u> </u>	v
Solar - PV (< 1 MW)	V	V
Solar - PV (>= 1 MW)	V	V
Solar - CSP	V	V
Solar Thermal (non- elec)	v	V
Geothermal	V	V
Biomass - Elec	V	V
Biomass - Non-elec	V	V
Hydro	<u> </u>	V
Other Technologies	V	V
Comments		

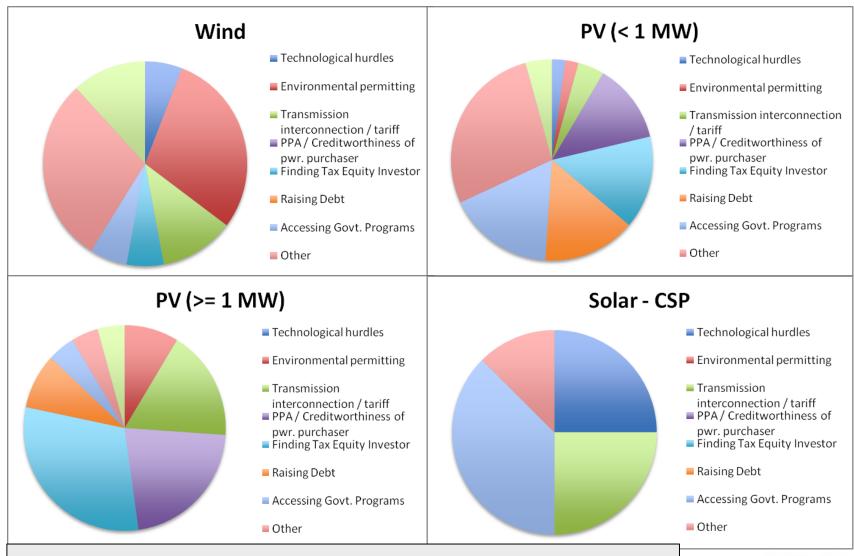
Largest Barriers to RE Development

About 50% of respondents referenced financing-related barrier as most significant; Other still a significant category





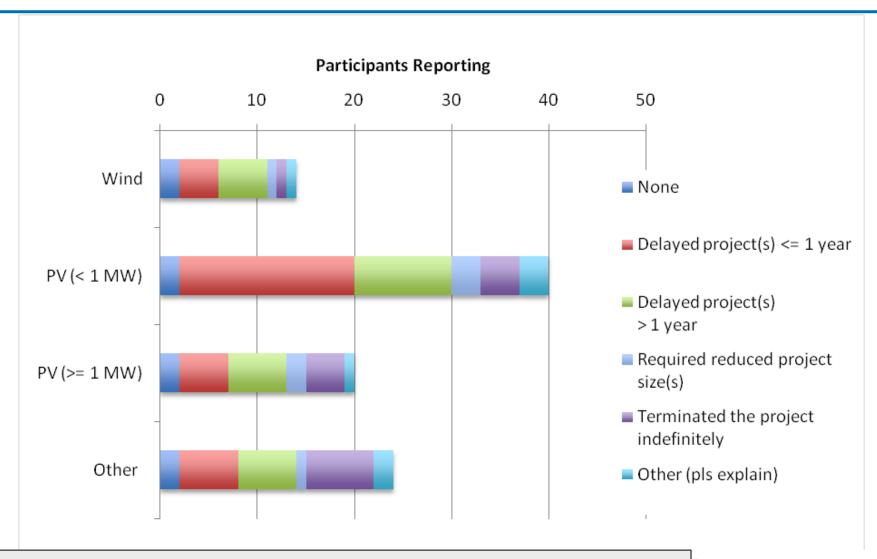
Largest Barrier – Tech Breakout



Tech hurdles not mentioned for large PV, solar CSP dominated by Accessing Govt. Programs



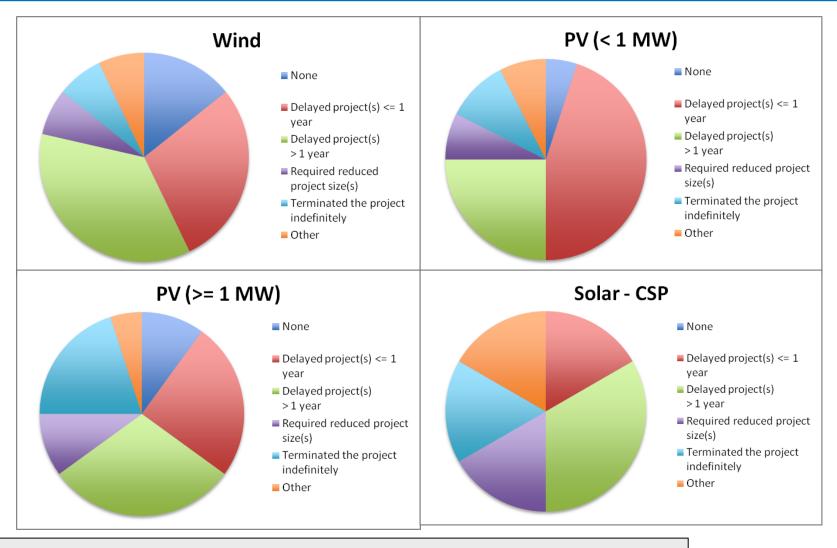
Consequence of Development Barrier(s)



Very few projects indicate no consequence to development barriers. Short-term delays (<1 year) most common consequence.



Consequence of Barriers – Tech Breakout



Large PV and CSP projects have longer delays / project terminations; small PV projects have less project resizing, termination.



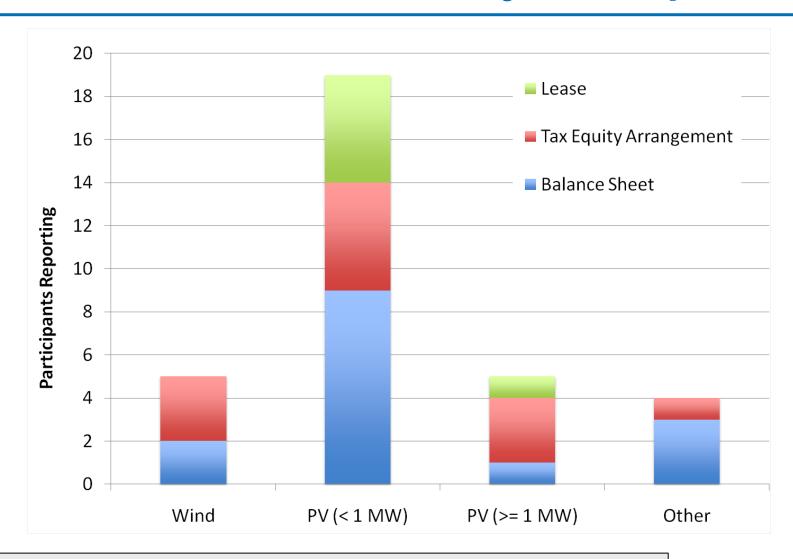
REFTI Questionnaire, Page 3, Q1 (Q7)

1. Select the primary typical FINANCIAL STRUCTURE characteristics of your projects that closed in prior quarter...

	Financial Structure	Depreciation	Federal Incentive	State Incentive
Wind	v	·	~	•
Solar - PV (< 1 MW)	•	~	•	•
Solar - PV (>= 1 MW)	·	~	v	٧
Solar - CSP	•	•	~	v
Solar Thermal (non-	·	~	V	V
elec)				
Geothermal	V	•	•	•
Biomass - Elec	·	~	~	·
Biomass - Non-elec	•	•	~	v
Hydro	·	~	v	·
Other Technologies	•	~	v	·
Comments				
			^	
			<u>*</u>	



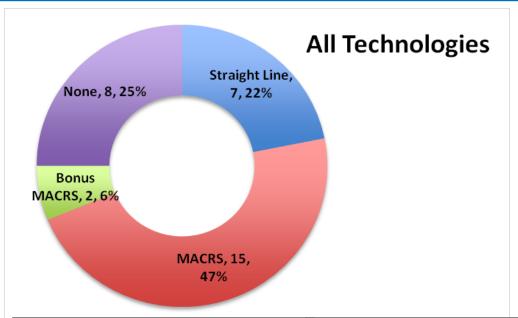
Financial Structure of Projects Reported



Balance sheet finance still critical for smaller projects. Tax equity and lease arrangements more relevant for wind and larger PV

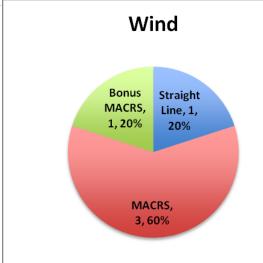


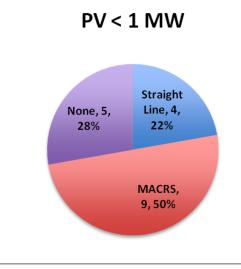
Form of Depreciation Taken

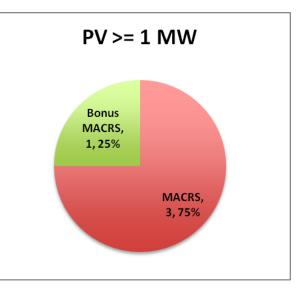




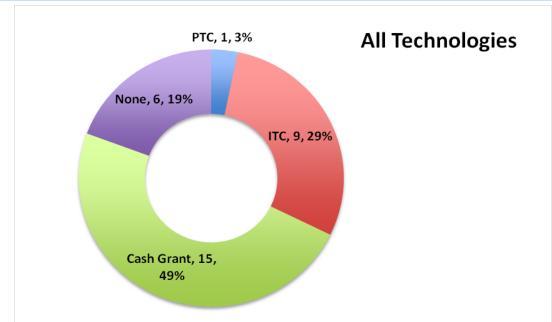
MACRS depreciation applied in roughly half of projects reported (32 participants responding)





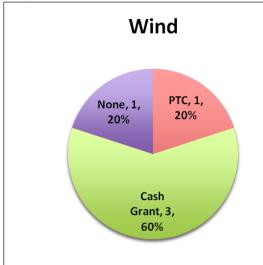


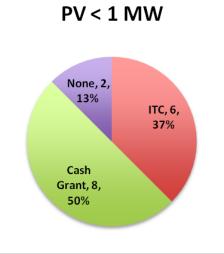
Form of Federal Incentive Taken

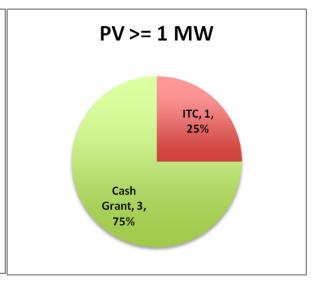




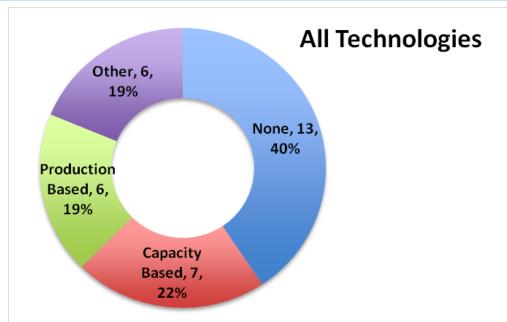
31 participants reporting, almost half taking the cash grant



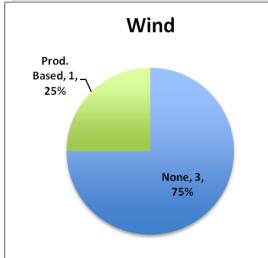


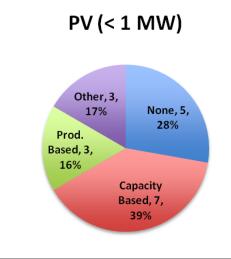


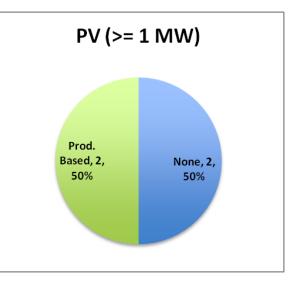
Form of State Incentive Taken











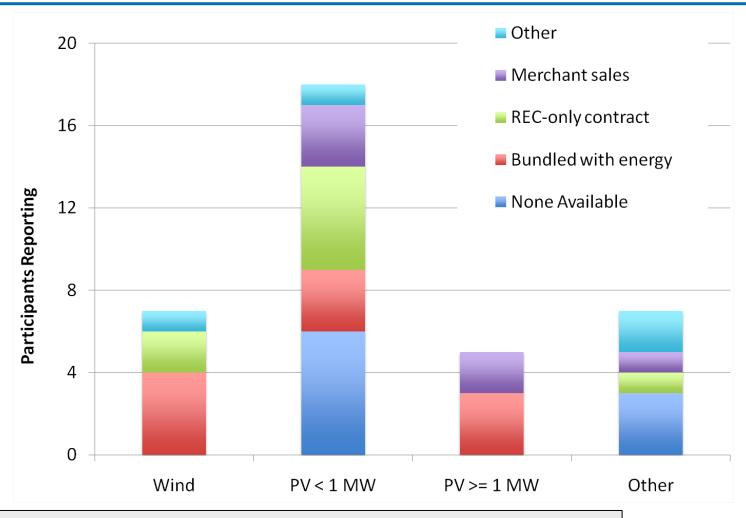
REFTI Questionnaire: Page 3, Q2 (Q8)

2. Provide the typical expected method of REC Sales, REC Type, and REC Contract Duration by technology...

	REC Sales	REC Type	REC Contract Term (yrs)
Wind	v	v	•
Solar - PV (< 1 MW)	•	•	•
Solar - PV (>= 1 MW)	·	v	•
Solar - CSP	~	•	•
Solar Thermal (non-elec)	v	•	•
Geothermal	v	v	•
Biomass - Elec	v	•	•
Biomass - Non-elec	v	v	•
Hydro	V	v	•
Other Technologies	v	•	•
Comments			
			^
			~



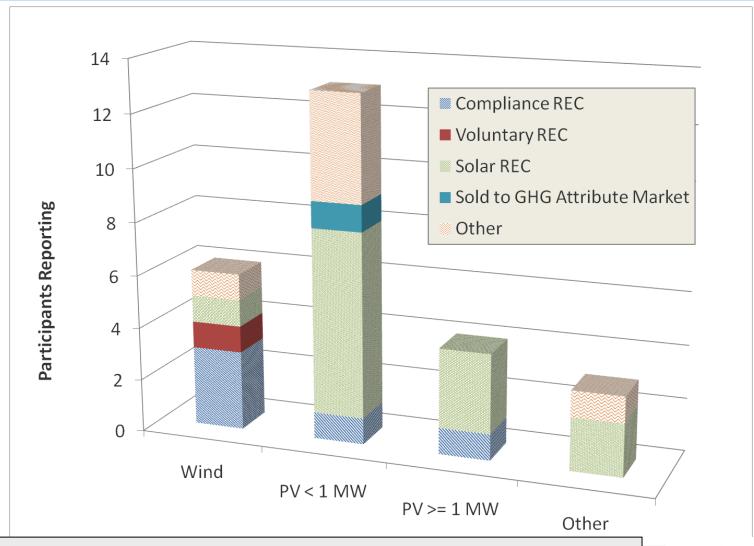
Form of REC Sales



RECs most commonly bundled with energy (10/37) but REC-only contract (8/37) and none available (9/37) were also common among REFTI participants



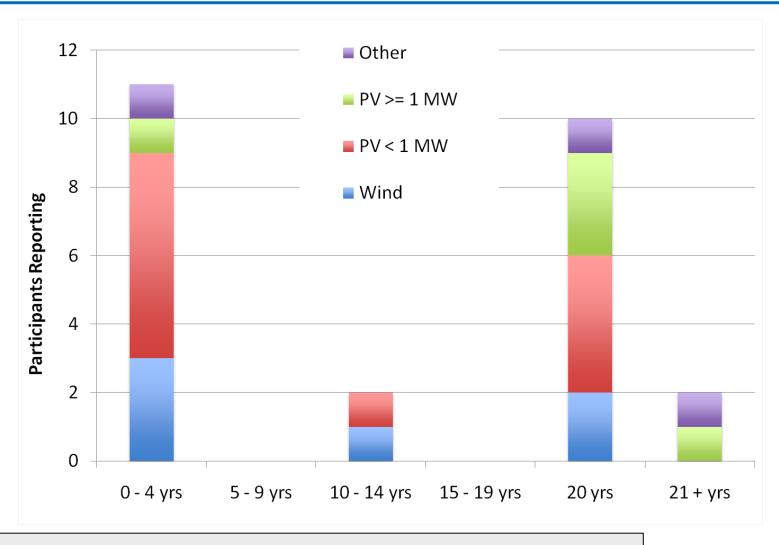
Type of RECs Sold



One half of the participants reported use of Solar RECs. Voluntary REC markets largely irrelevant



REC Contract Duration



REC contracts generally fall into very short-term (< 4 years) or 20 year long-term durations



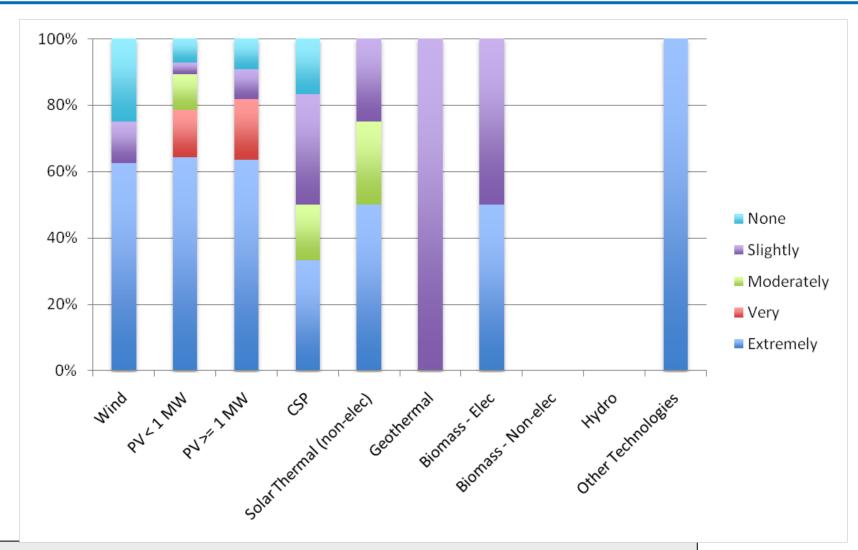
REFTI Questionnaire: Page 3, Q3 (Q9)

3. Please comment on the IMPORTANCE of different INCENTIVE PROGRAMS to developing your projects...

	Treasury Grants	State Incentives	(REC purchase)
Wind	v	v	V
Solar - PV (< 1 MW)	•	v	V
Solar - PV (>= 1 MW)	~	v	V
Solar - CSP	•	•	•
Solar Thermal (non-elec)	·	v	V
Geothermal	•	v	V
Biomass - Elec	·	v	V
Biomass - Non-elec	•	v	V
Hydro	·	v	v
Other Technologies	•	v	V
Comments			
			~



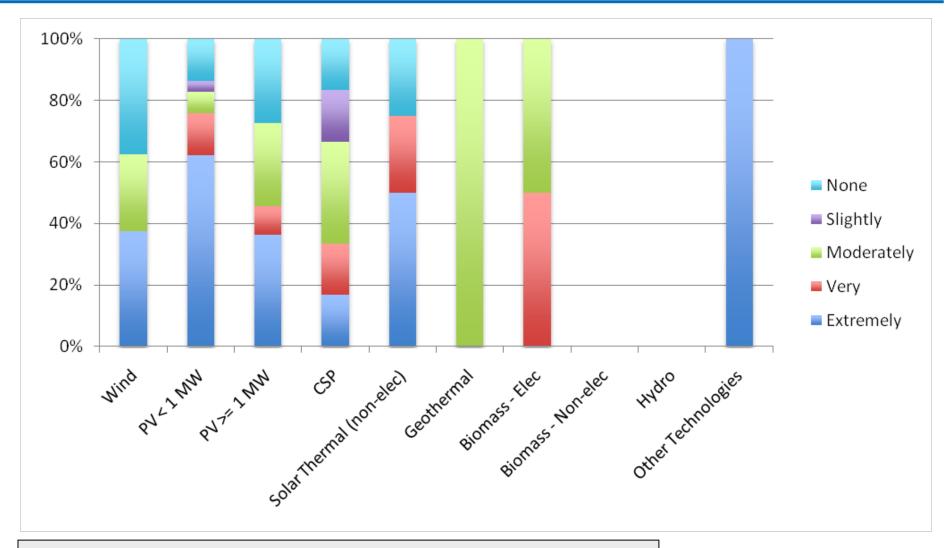
Importance of Treasury Grants



Scaled to 100%. Treasury Grants continue to be considered of extremely high importance, although (% difference from Q1)



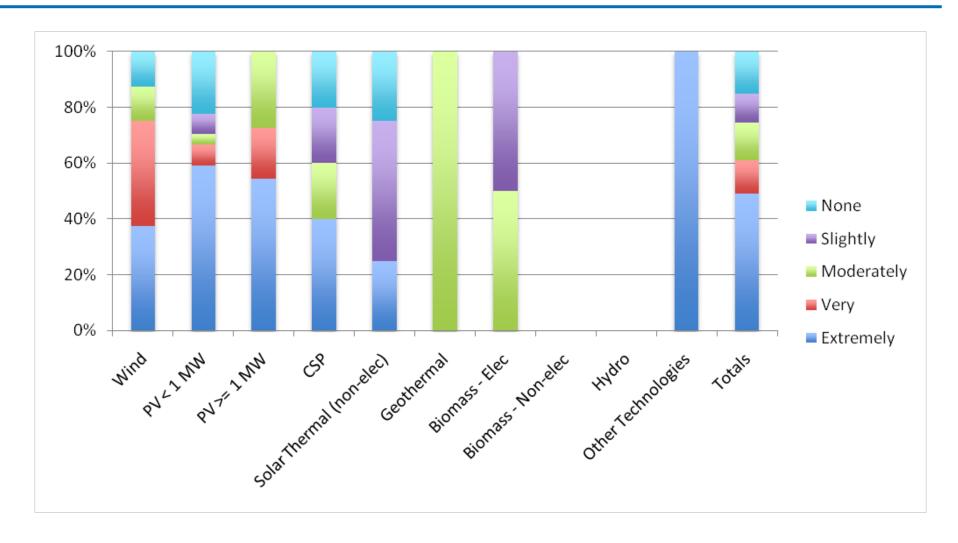
Importance of State Incentives



Scaled to 100%. Not critical for CSP or geothermal. Important for small PV



Importance of Portfolio Standards

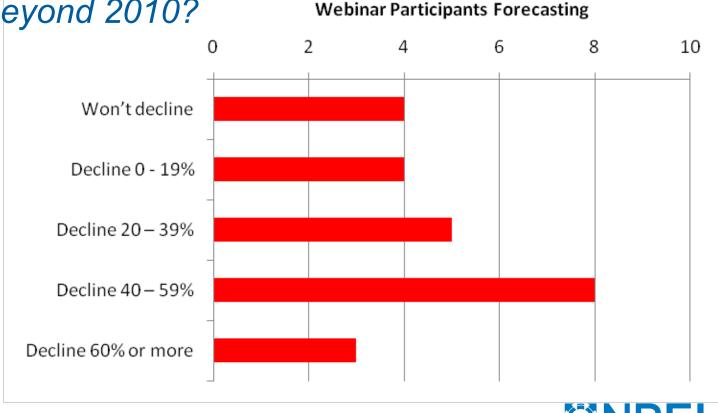


Scaled to 100%



Interactive Poll #1

How much do you expect your business to change if the treasury grant is not extended beyond 2010?



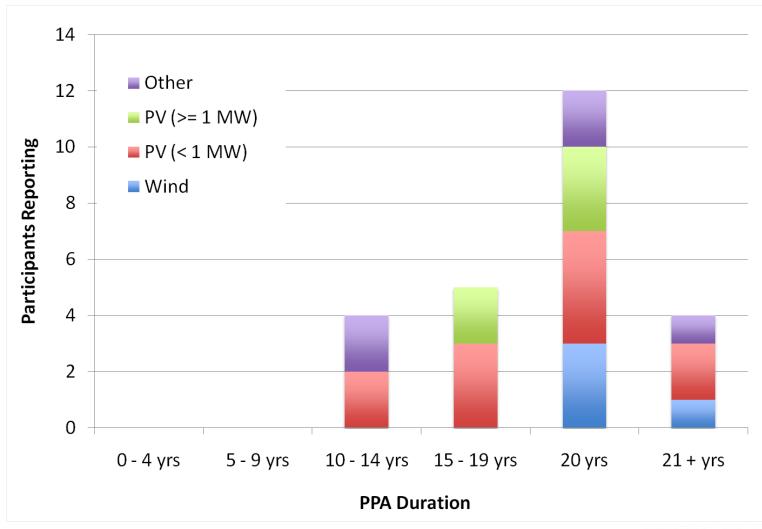
REFTI Questionnaire: Page 3, Q4 (Q10)

4. Please provide the following parameters to the typical Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) used in prior quarter...

	PPA Term (yrs)	PPA Price in Yr 1	PPA Price Escalation (%)	Customer Buyout Option
Wind	~	•	•	~
Solar - PV (< 1 MW)	~	~	•	~
Solar - PV (>= 1 MW)	~	·	•	~
Solar - CSP	~	~	•	~
Solar Thermal (non-elec)	~	•	•	~
Geothermal	~	~	•	~
Biomass - Elec	~	•	•	~
Biomass - Non-elec	~	~	•	~
Hydro	~		•	~
Other Technologies	~	~	•	V
Comments				
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			<u>*</u>	



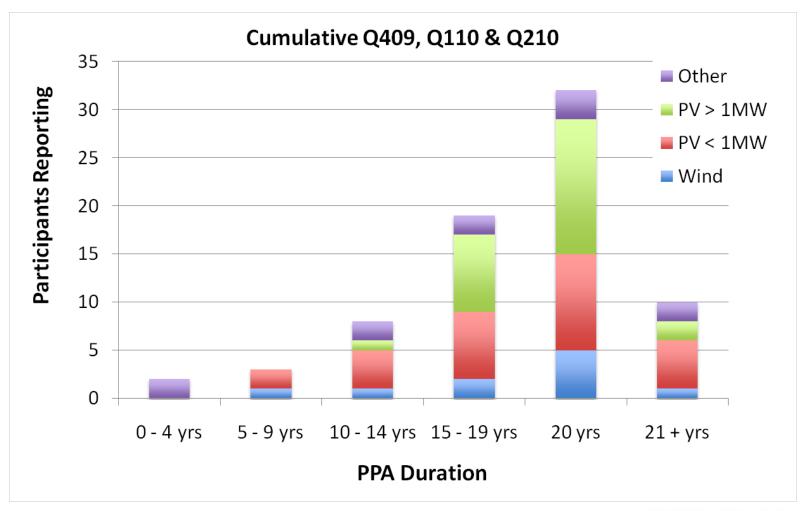
Typical PPA Duration



Most typically 20 year, all over 10 years

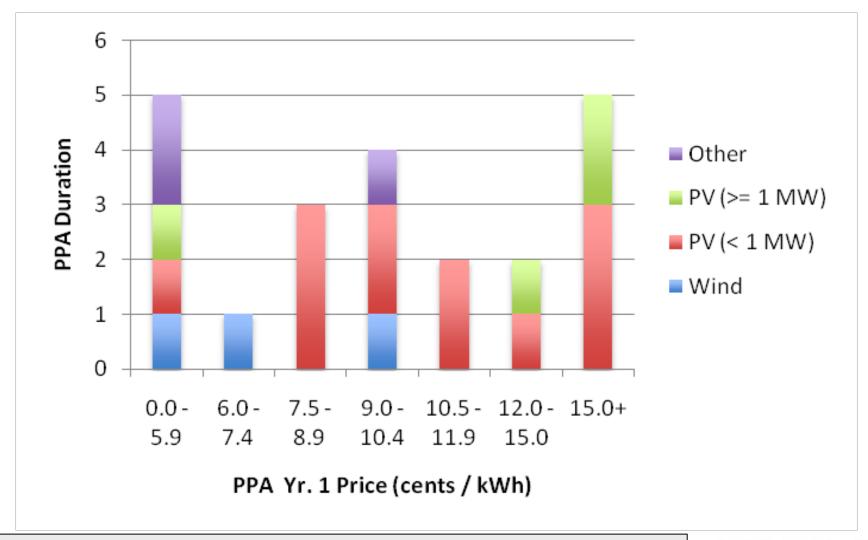


Typical PPA Duration – Cumulative





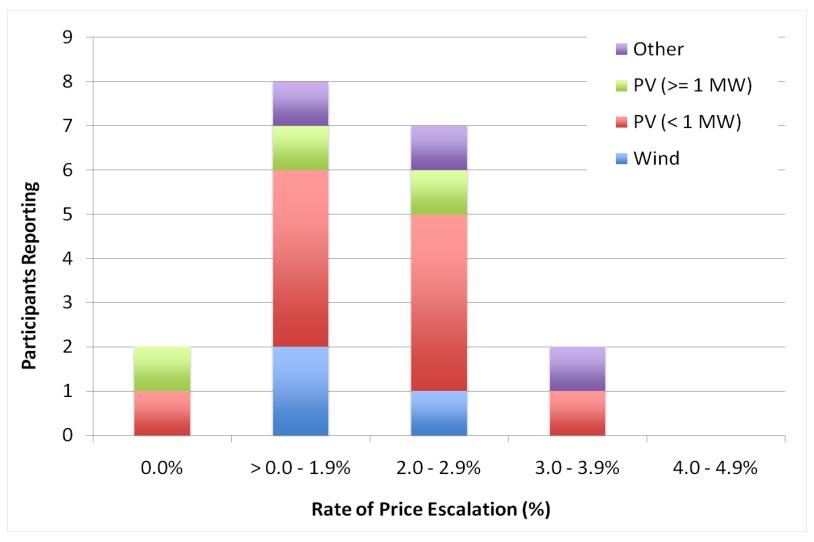
PPA Price - Year 1



PPA prices likely highly dependent on resource, state-specific incentives, and prevailing utility rates



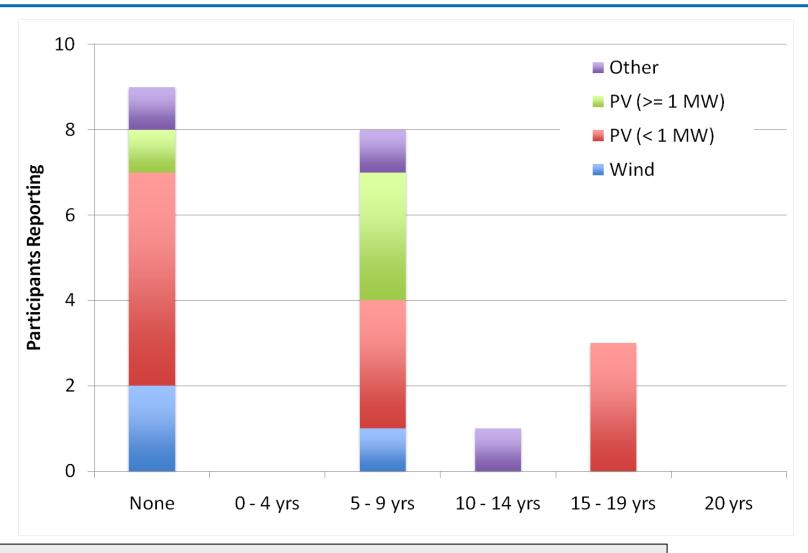
PPA Price Escalation



Most PPA contracts escalate at some rate, usually at less than 3%



PPA Customer Buyout Option



Slightly more than half of respondents indicate no customer buyout is available, remainder say buyout most commonly at 5-9 yrs



REFTI Questionnaire: Page 3, Q5 (Q11)

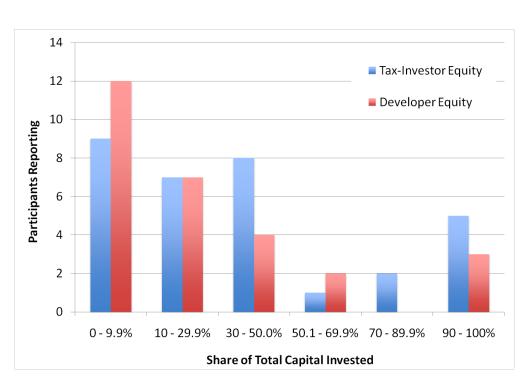
5. Regarding project EQUITY CAPITAL (based on after-tax returns), please tell us how your projects are generally structured...

	Ratio of Tax-Investor Equity / Total Capital	Expected Return on Tax- Investor Equity	Ratio of Developer Equity / Total Capital	Expected Return on Developer Equity
Wind	~	·	~	~
Solar - PV (< 1 MW)	~	•	~	*
Solar - PV (>= 1 MW)	V	·	~	·
Solar - CSP	~	•	~	·
Solar Thermal (non-elec)	~	·	~	·
Geothermal	~	~	~	v
Biomass - Elec	~	·	~	·
Biomass - Non-elec	~	•	~	·
Hydro	~	·	~	·
Other Technologies	~	*	~	·
Comments				
			^	
			~	



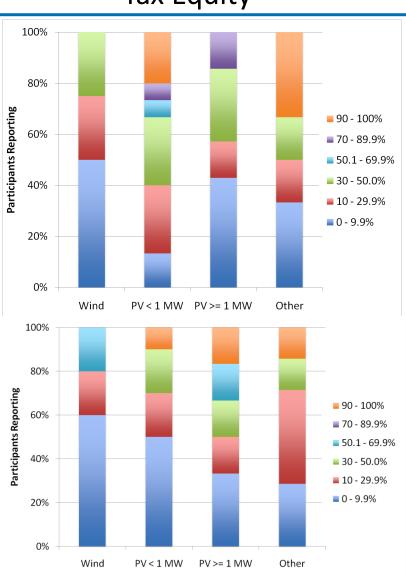
Equity Ratios

Tax Equity



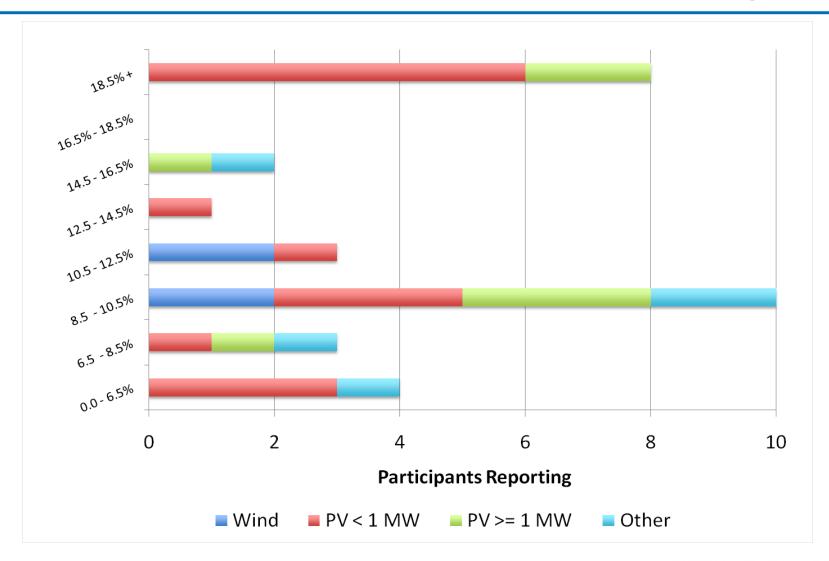
Tax and Developer equity each less than 50% of total capital. TE for small PV represents high % of total capex





Dev. Equity

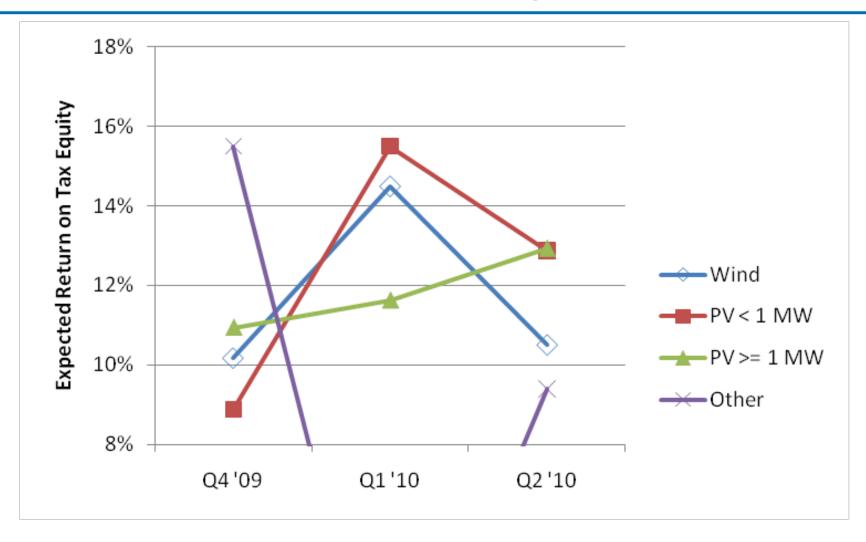
Expected Return on Tax-Investor Equity



Tight bandwidth for wind projects. Much wider for PV, esp. small PV



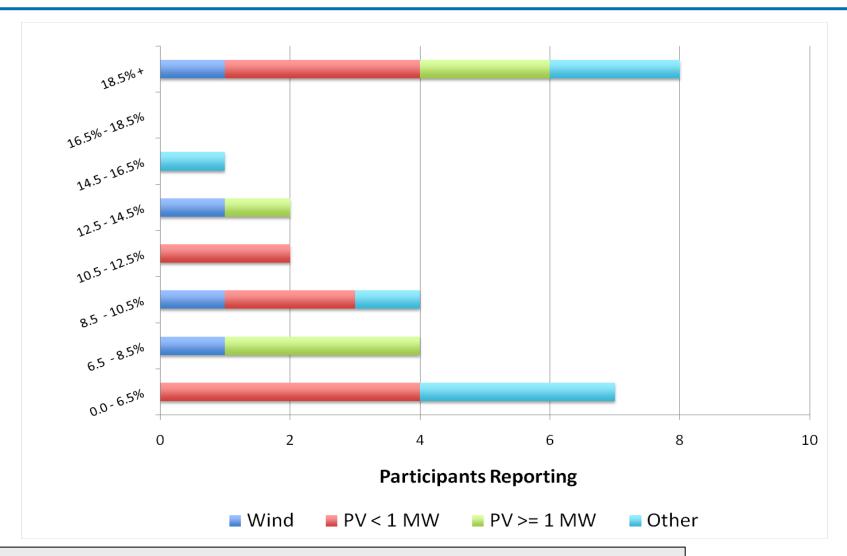
Exp. Return on Tax Equity – Trend



From Q4 '09 to Q2 '10, cost of tax equity appears to have increased in Q1 '10 and eased a bit in Q2 '10 (on wtd. avg. basis).



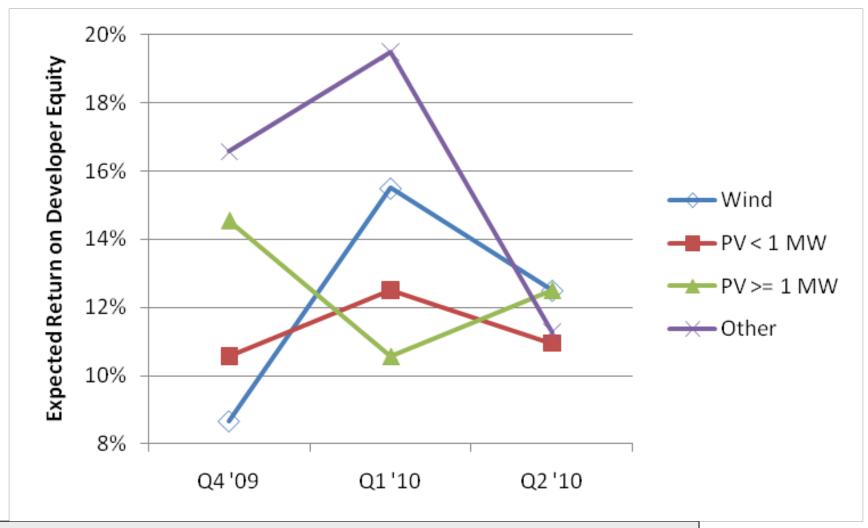
Expected Return on Developer Equity



Wide range of expected returns on developer equity – either very low or very high



Exp. Return on Developer Equity - Trend



Expected return on developer equity in Q1 '10 increased for wind projects, decreased for large PV. Both met at exact same point in Q2 '10



REFTI Questionnaire: Page 3, Q6 (Q12)

6. Regarding project-level CONSTRUCTION debt, please tell us how your projects are generally structured...

	Source of Const. Debt	Ratio of Const. Debt / Total Capital	Average All-In Cost of Const. Debt (%)	Const. Debt Term (months)
Wind	·	~	~	~
Solar - PV (< 1 MW)	~	•	~	~
Solar - PV (>= 1 MW)	·	~	~	~
Solar - CSP	~	•	~	~
Solar Thermal (non- elec)	V	~	~	v
Geothermal	·	*	~	~
Biomass - Elec	•	•	~	~
Biomass - Non-elec	v	~	~	~
Hydro	·	~	~	~
Other Technologies	~	•	~	~
Comments				
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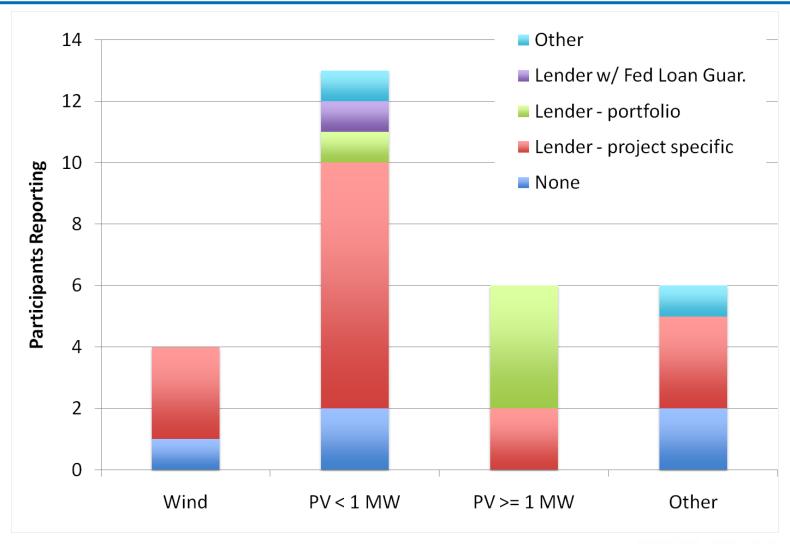


REFTI Questionnaire: Page 3, Q7 (Q13)

7. Regarding project-level TERM debt, please tell us how your projects are generally structured...

	Source of Debt	Ratio of Debt / Total Capital	Ratio of Fed Loan Guarantee / Debt	Avg. All-In Cost of Debt (%)	Debt Term (yrs)	Avg. Debt Coverage Ratio Required
Wind	V	~	~	~	~	~
Solar - PV (< 1 MW)	Y	v	~	Y	*	V
Solar - PV (>= 1 MW)	<u> </u>	~	~	~	~	~
Solar - CSP	•	•	~	•	~	~
Solar Thermal (non -elec)	•	•	~	v	v	~
Geothermal	•	*	•	~	~	~
Biomass - Elec	<u> </u>	~	~	~	~	~
Biomass - Non-elec	Y	~	~	v	~	Y
Hydro	~	~	~	~	~	~
Other Technologies	Y	v	~	v	*	~
Comments						
				<u>^</u>		IREL

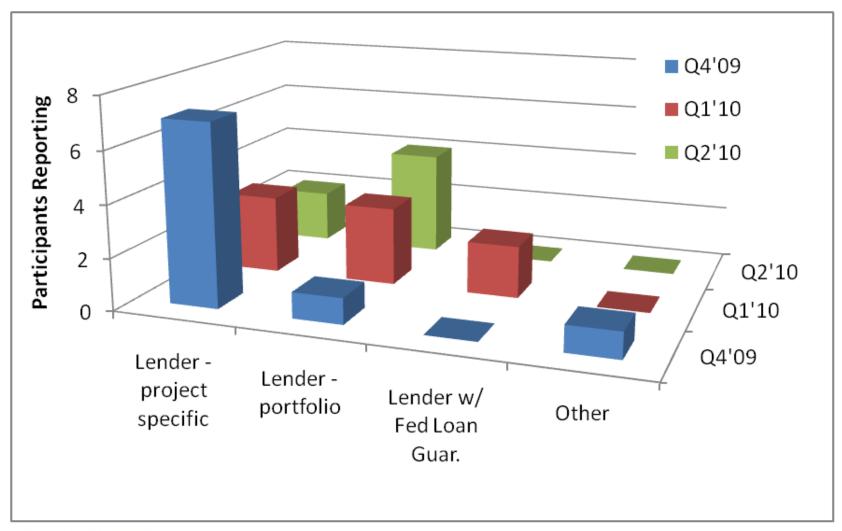
Source of Term Debt



Project specific lending reported for projects less than 1 MW



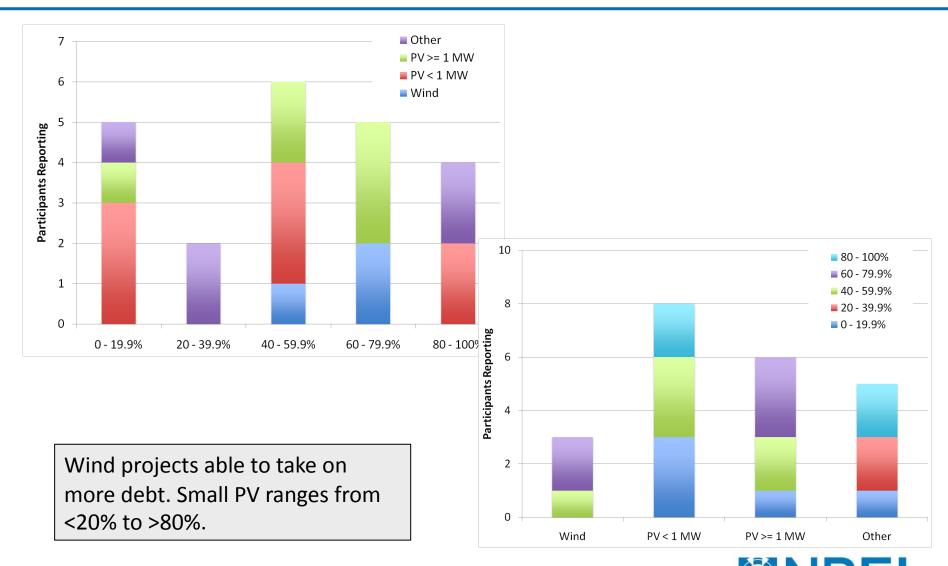
Source of Term Debt – Trend Analysis



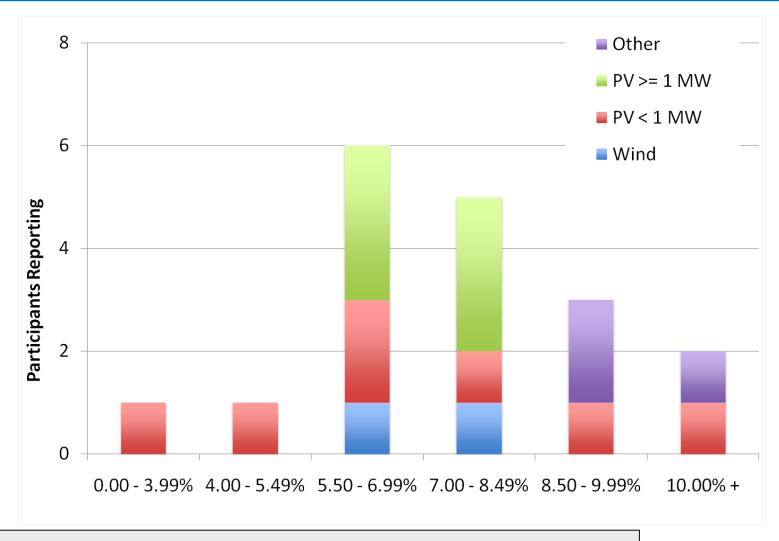


Reported project specific debt declining and portfolio debt increasing over time.

Term Debt as % of Total CapEx



Cost of Term Debt (all-in)

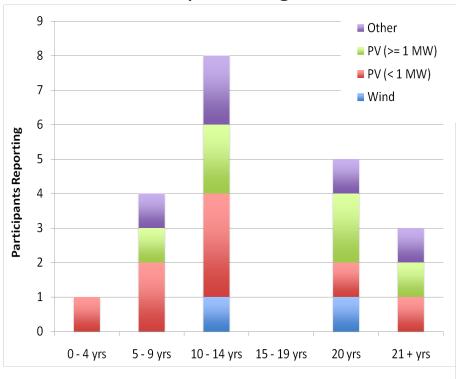


Most commonly in the 5.5-8.5% range. But REFTI participants reporting very wide range.

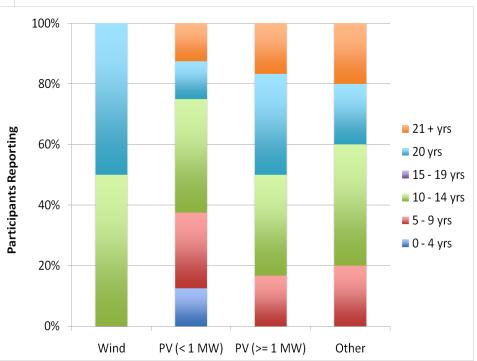


Term Debt Duration

by bin range



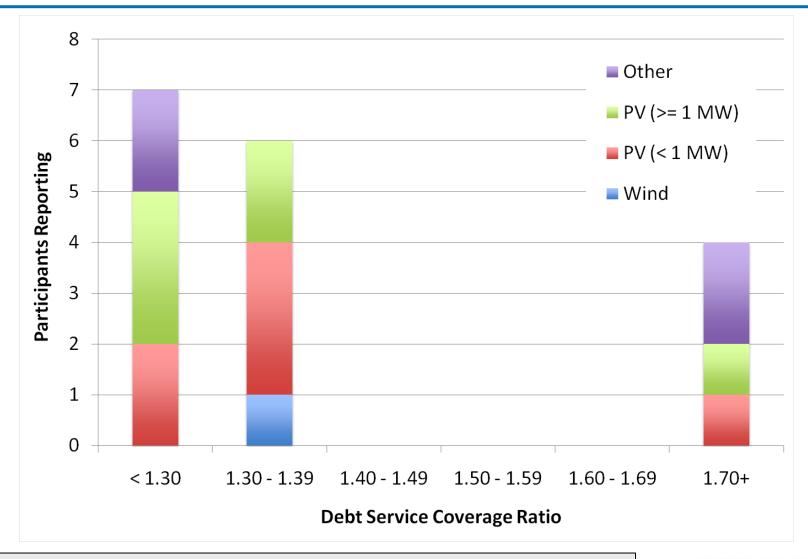
by technology, scaled to 100%



Small and large PV and other technology acquiring very short term debt



Debt Service Coverage Ratios Required



Min debt coverage ratios most commonly below 1.3x



REFTI Questionnaire: Page 3, Q8 (Q14)

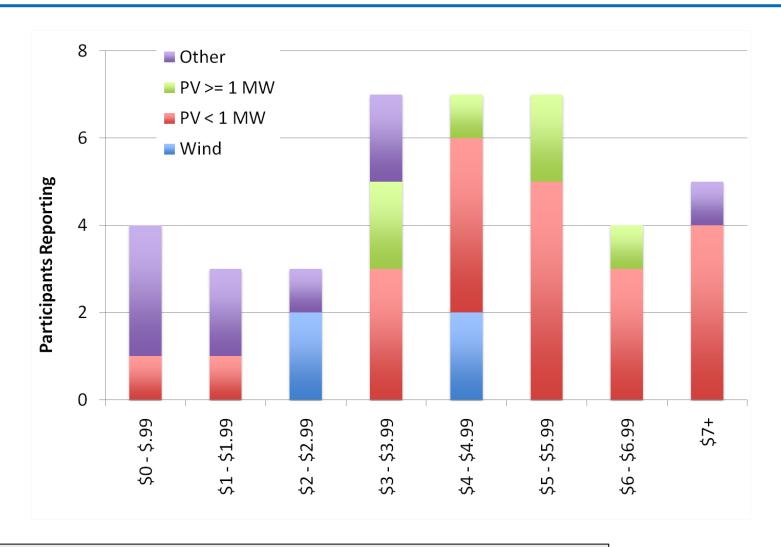
8. Provide the average INSTALLED COSTS (before incentives) and LEVELIZED COST OF ENERGY (LCOE) (after incentives) from your projects

(LCOE is generally the present value of costs divided by the present value of energy delivered)

	Installed Costs (\$ / Watt - net output)	LCOE (cents / kWh)
Wind	v	v
Solar - PV (< 1 MW)	v	v
Solar - PV (>= 1 MW)	v	v
Solar - CSP	·	v
Solar Thermal (non-elec)	v	v
Geothermal	v	v
Biomass - Elec	v	v
Biomass - Non-elec	V	· ·
Hydro	v	v
Other Technologies	V	· ·
Comments		
		^ ~



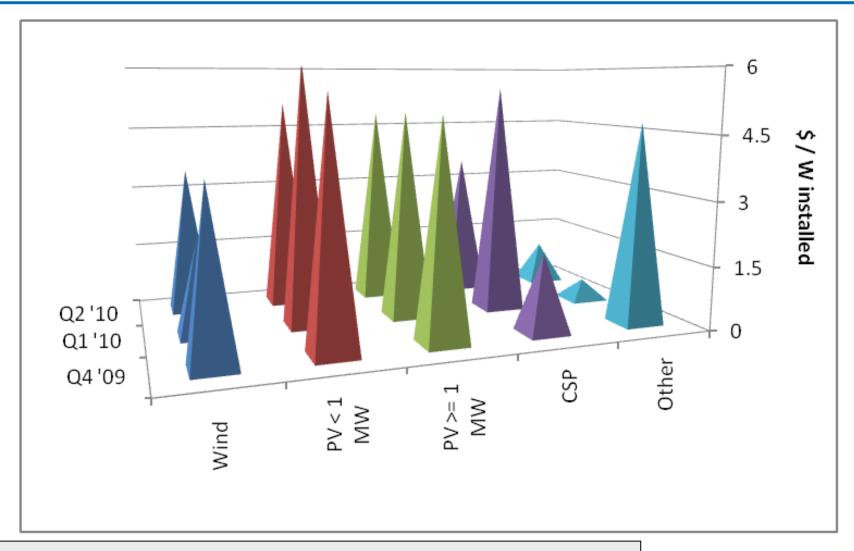
Installed Costs (before incentives)



Very wide range for small PV reported. Less than \$1 /W installed?



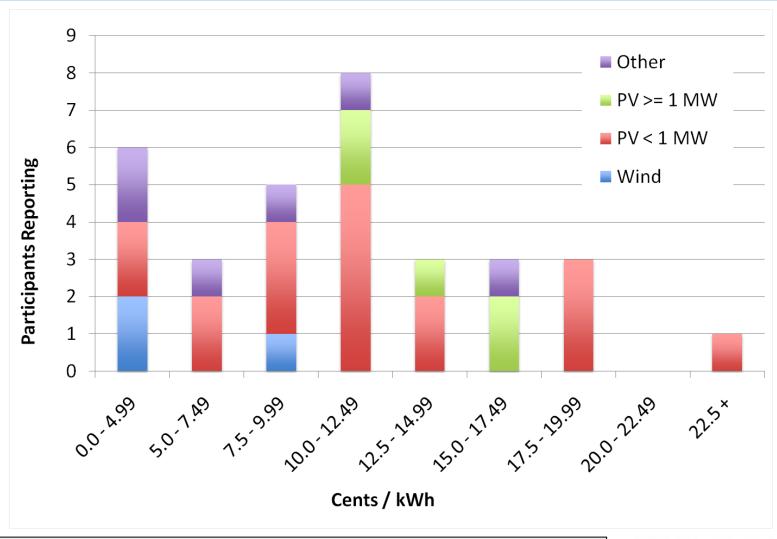
Installed Costs – Trend Analysis (wtd. avg.)



On a wtd. avg. basis, most techs hold relatively consistently across multiple quarters of REFTI data



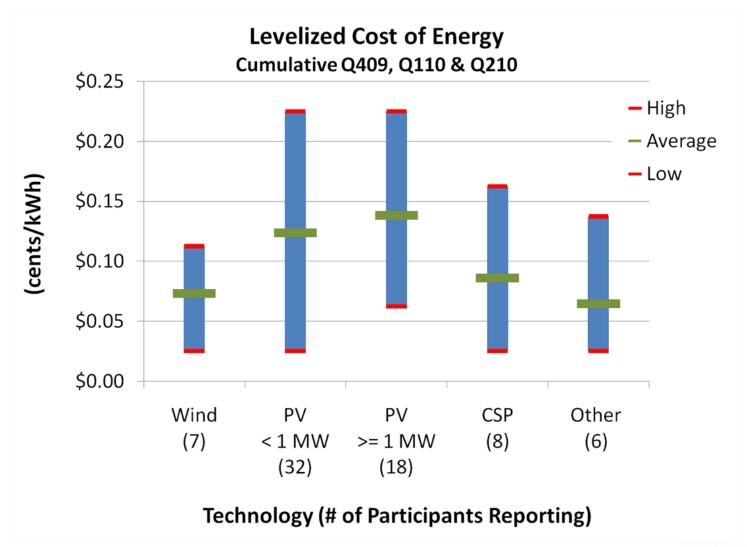
Levelized Cost of Energy (cents/kWh)



Large PV within reasonable range 10 - 17.5 cents/kWh. Small PV reported in very wide range.



LCOE – Cumulative Range and Avg. (cents/kWh)



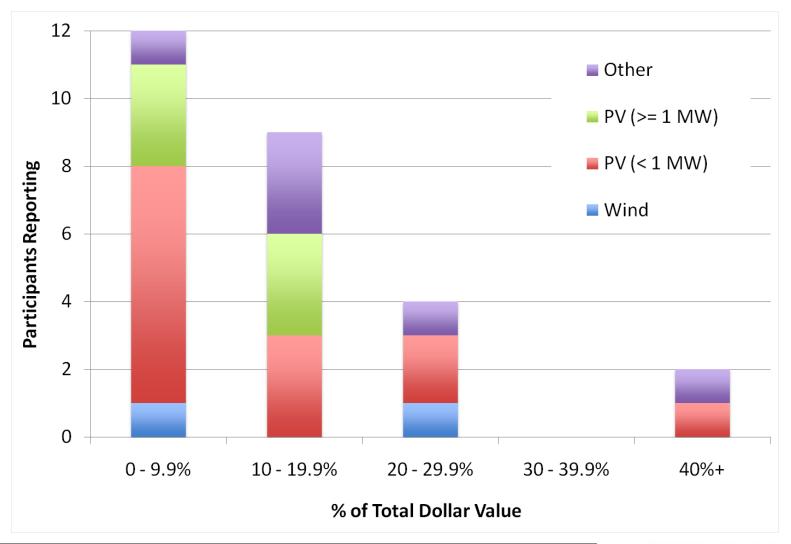


REFTI Questionnaire: Page 4, Bonus Q1

1. What was the transaction cost (as a % of total dollar value) to monetize tax equity and/or MACRS depreciation benefits?

	TE Transaction Cost
Wind	· ·
Solar - PV (< 1 MW)	
Solar - PV (>= 1 MW)	
Solar - CSP	
Solar Thermal (non-elec)	
Geothermal	
Biomass - Elec	
Biomass - Non-elec	
Hydro	
Other Technologies	
Comments	
NRFI	<u>^</u> ~

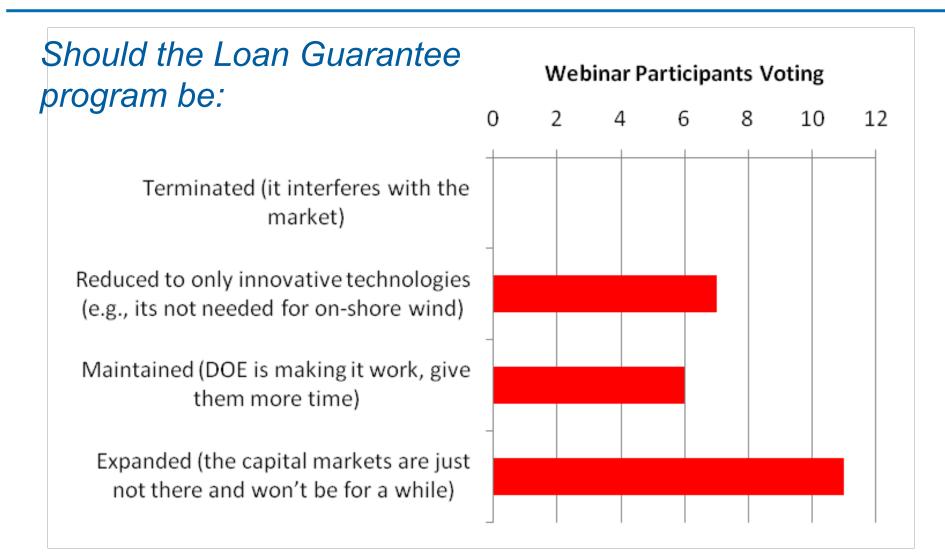
Transaction Cost as % of ITC / MACRS Benefit



Transaction cost primarily less than 20%. Some very high numbers reported



Interactive Poll #2





Data Confidentiality

- Ensuring REFTI data confidentiality critical to NREL
- Data gathered through REFTI will only be utilized for:
 - Providing aggregate values for model inputs
 - Reporting trends
 - Participant-specific data will not be utilized or distributed in any way
- Non-disclosure agreements are available
 - Executing an NDA is fully voluntary
 - 3 12 month NDAs are available
- Please let us know if you have any concerns over data provided through this webinar
 - Slides will not be made available immediately to allow time to raise concerns
- Q2 Survey still available for review only



Thank you!!!

We appreciate your participation!

Michael Mendelsohn michael.mendelsohn@nrel.gov 303/384-7363

Current (Q3 2010) REFTI Questionnaire available at:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/K2ZXYJW

